

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a loom having a first drive motor which drives a first loom element and at least a second drive motor which drives a second loom element, said motors each having a control and regulation unit associated therewith, comprising forming a rotational angle course for a virtual synchronization shaft of the loom; and synchronizing the elements driven by the drive motors so that the elements are synchronized with the virtual synchronization shafts shaft at one or more predefined angular positions only, and are ~~permitted to be unsynchronized with one another~~ driven by the drive motors independently of each other irrespective of synchronization with each other and the virtual synchronization shaft at positions other than said one or more predetermined angular positions by operating the drive motors independently of each other at the other positions.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the drive motors are operated as a function of the rotational angle course of the virtual synchronization shaft.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the rotary motion of at least one of the drive motors is regulated; and wherein the regulation is based on desired values which are derived from the rotational angle course of the virtual synchronization shaft.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the rotary motion of at least one of the drive motors is controlled in accordance with a program.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the angular positions of the virtual synchronization shaft with which the drive motors are synchronized are adjustable.

6. (Currently Amended) A loom having a first drive motor which drives a first loom element and at least a second drive motor which drives a second loom element, comprising a control and regulating device which is arranged to form a rotational angle course for a virtual synchronization shaft of the loom and to communicate signals related to such rotational angle course to respective control and regulating units of each of the drive motors, which are arranged to synchronize each of the elements driven by the drive motors in at least one predetermined rotational angle position with the virtual synchronization shaft on the basis of such signals in a manner such that the elements are synchronized with the virtual synchronization shaft at said at least one predetermined rotational angle position, and to drive the respective drive motors independently of each other irrespective of synchronization with each other and the virtual synchronization shaft at positions other than said at least one predetermined rotational angle position.

7. (Previously Presented) The loom according to claim 6, wherein the control and regulating unit of at least one of the drive motors regulates the rotary motion of said one drive motor in accordance with desired values that are derived from the rotational angle course of the virtual synchronization shaft.

8. (Previously Presented) The loom according to claim 6 wherein the control and regulating unit of at least one of the drive motors includes a program controller.

9. (Previously Presented) The loom according to claim 6, wherein the control and regulating units of the drive motors are assigned input devices by means of which data can

be input, and on the basis of which data the angular positions to be synchronized with the virtual synchronization shaft are adjustable.

10. (Previously Presented) The loom according to claim 6, wherein the first and second loom elements include a shedding mechanism and a batten respectively, and wherein the first and second drive motors are independent of each other, said second drive motor comprising a loom main drive motor.

11. (Previously Presented) The loom according to claim 10, wherein the first drive motor is mounted on a frame of the loom and is connected to the shedding mechanism via a resilient coupling element.

12. (Previously Presented) The loom according to claim 10, wherein at least one gear train is provided between the batten and the main drive motor and between drive elements of the shedding mechanism and the first drive motor.

13. (Previously Presented) The loom according to claim 10, wherein a gear train associated with the main drive motor and a gear train associated with the second drive motor are located in a common gearbox.

14. (Previously Presented) The loom according to claim 13, wherein the gear train associated with the main drive motor and the gear train associated with the second drive motor are accommodated in chambers separate from one another in the common gearbox.

15. (Previously Presented) The loom according to claim 10, wherein the second drive motor is secured to a housing that contains drive elements for the shedding mechanism.

16. (Previously Presented) The loom according to claim 15, wherein the second drive motor is secured to a gearbox which in turn is secured to a housing of the drive elements of the shedding mechanism.

17. (Previously Presented) The loom according to claim 15, wherein the second drive motor is mounted directly on a housing of the drive elements of the shedding mechanism.

18. (Currently Amended) The loom according to claim 6, wherein the main drive motor and a ~~beam~~ loom component comprising at least one of the batten, the second drive motor, the drive elements, and the shedding mechanism is assigned a sensor which is arranged to detect the angular position of the respective component.

19.(Currently Amended) The loom according to claim [[1]] 6, wherein the first and second loom elements comprise a batten and a shedding mechanism, respectively, wherein said first drive motor is a loom main drive motor and further wherein at least one of the main drive motor and the second drive motor is assigned a switchable brake.